

Quick Guide to Parliamentary Motions

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition* updated 

CAN INTERRUPT?
REQUIRES SECOND?
DEBATABLE?
AMENDABLE?
VOTE REQUIRED?

Main & Subsidiary Motions

The motions in this table are listed in order of precedence. Any motion can be introduced if it is higher on this table than the pending motion. The name of the motion is in **boldface**.

IF YOU WANT TO:	YOU SAY:	Yes	No	Yes	No	Majority
Close meeting	"I move to adjourn ."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Take a break	"I move to recess for [or until] ..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Register a complaint	"I rise to a question of privilege ."	Yes	No	No	No	None
Insist that agenda be followed	"I call for the orders of the day ."	Yes	No	No	No	None
Lay aside temporarily	"I move to lay the question on the table ."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Close debate	"I move the previous question ."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Limit or extend debate	"I move that debate be limited [or extended] to ..."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Postpone consideration to a certain time	"I move to postpone the motion to ..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Refer to a committee	"I move to refer the motion to ..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Modify or substitute wording of motion	"I move to amend the motion by ..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Kill main motion	"I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely ."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Bring business before the assembly (a main motion)	"I move that [or to] ..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

A motion to **amend a main motion** can be amended, but a motion to **amend an amendment to a main motion** cannot be amended. (Amendments can only go two levels deep.)

Incidental Motions

These motions have no order of precedence. They arise incidentally and are decided immediately.

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IF YOU WANT TO:	YOU SAY:	Yes	No	Yes	No	Majority
Enforce rules	" Point of order ."	Yes	No	No	No	None
Appeal a ruling of the chair to the assembly	"I appeal from the decision of the chair."	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
Suspend rules	"I move to suspend the rules which ..."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Prevent consideration of a main motion altogether	"I object to the consideration of the question ."	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
Divide a motion into separate motions	"I move to divide the question ."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Demand a standing vote	"I call for division ."	Yes	No	No	No	None
Inquire about parliamentary rules	" Parliamentary inquiry ."	Yes	No	No	No	None
Request information	" Point of information ." "Request for information."	Yes	No	No	No	None

Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly

These motions have no order of precedence. They can only be introduced when nothing else is pending.

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IF YOU WANT TO:	YOU SAY:	Yes	No	Yes	No	Majority
Resume consideration of a tabled motion	"I move to take from the table ..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Cancel a previous action	"I move to rescind ..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3*
Reconsider a motion	"I move to reconsider the vote ..."	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority

* with previous notice